

22. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 19 wherein the first response packet specifies a first response data packet, and wherein the second node is configured to transmit the first response data packet in the response virtual channel.

23. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 19 wherein the first node is configured to allocate resources to process one or more response packets corresponding to the first command packet prior to transmitting the first command packet, wherein the one or more response packets includes the first response packet.

24. (New) A node comprising:

one or more response buffers assigned to a response virtual channel;

one or more first control packet buffers assigned to a first virtual channel different from said response virtual channel; and

one or more second control packet buffers assigned to a second virtual channel different from said response virtual channel and said first virtual channel;

wherein, in response to receiving a first response packet that is a response to a first control packet belonging to one of said first virtual channel and said second virtual channel, the node is configured to store said first response packet in said response buffers independent of which of said first virtual channel and said second virtual channel to which said first control packet belongs.

25. (New) The node as recited in claim 24 wherein said node, in response to receiving a second response packet that is a response to a second control packet belonging to a different one of said first virtual channel and said second virtual channel from said first control packet, is configured to store said second response packet in said response buffers.

26. (New) The node as recited in claim 24 wherein said first virtual channel is a non-posted command virtual channel and said second virtual channel is a probe virtual channel.

27. (New) The node as recited in claim 24 wherein said node further comprises one or more response data buffers configured to store response data packets specified by response packets, and wherein, in response to receiving a first response data packet specified by said first response packet, said node is configured to store said first response data packet in said response data buffers.

28. (New) The node as recited in claim 27 wherein in response to receiving a second response packet received in response to a second control packet belonging to a different one of said first virtual channel and said second virtual channel from said first control packet, said node is configured to store said second response packet in said response buffers, and wherein, in response to receiving a second response data packet specified by said second response packet, said node is configured to store said second response data packet in said response data buffers.

29. (New) The node as recited in claim 24 wherein said node is configured to generate said first control packet.

30. (New) The node as recited in claim 29 wherein said node is configured to allocate a buffer to store processed data from processing a plurality of response packets corresponding to said first control packet, said node configured to allocate said buffer prior to transmitting said first control packet, and wherein said plurality of response packets includes said first response packet.

31. (New) The node as recited in claim 30 wherein said first control packet comprises a probe packet generated in response to a second control packet received by said node.